From Temple Bar to

A COPY of the Marquiss of CARMARTHEN's Method for the Speedy Manning Her Majesty's Royal Navy; and for Encouraging Seamen, Feb. 12. 1705.

THE General Opinion of the Nation agreeing at this Juncture, in the Necessity of some speedy and effectual Methods to compleat the well Manning of Her Majesty's Fleet, I could not but think it of Publick Use to propose such Observations as have arisen to me, both where we have formerly miscarry'd, in this desirable end, and to endeavour at this Critical time, when the Successes of our Forces in Spain call for our closest Application, to go heartily into the most likely Measures that can be contrived, how our Fleet may act with Vigour and Effect; our Time is short, and the Number of Sea-faring Men yet wanting, is too great to admit of such Considerations as at other times would, and (notwithstanding what is mentioned in these Propositions) may be again and again revised: But what has been yet done, has not in any degree Provided for the Numbers of Mariners that are demanded towards putting our Fleet to Sea, as would be

of the laſt ill Conſequence to fall in at this time. 'Tis my Opinion, that no Act can be made to give the neceſſary Remedy, but ſuch an one as will in ſome Particulars appear ſo ſevere, as can only be thought reaſonable to continue in force while we provide for our preſent Neceſſity; Our former Diſappointments in the Encouragement of our Seamen has made them ſo jealous, that ſome Force will, upon the moſt mature Deliberation, be found neceſſary to make them come under the Conditions of any future real Advantages that are intended them; yet Care muſt be taken at the ſame time to give Seamen ſufficient Encouragement, leſt too much Rigour ſhould drive them out of the Kingdom. I am convinced this is a thing of that Nature, wherein a Man may ſhow many Propoſitions, out of which but a few will be found to anſwer the great Uſes that are intended; but yet I ſhall be abundantly recompenſed for what Pains I have taken, if in any part I have ſucceeded.

PROPOSALS.

I. THAT a general Embargo be continued upon all Merchants Ships until the Royal Navy be mann'd.

II. That no Maſter or Owner of Merchants Ships give above Thirty Shillings *per* Month Wages under Penalty of . . . . . .

III. That no Sea-faring Man be detained Priſoner for Debt (under 50 *l.*) that can ſwear himſelf not worth 5 *l.*

IV. *Whereas*

IV. *Whereas Multitudes of able Seamen and Deſerters ſhelter themſelves in the Cincq Ports, in which Places (under pretence of being Priviledged) they ſo unmercifully beat and abuſe Preſs-Gangs, that Officers who attempt to Preſs in any of them, run great hazard of their Lives.* That not only ſuch the Pretended Priviledge of the Cincq Ports, but alſo thoſe of the *Mint*, *Savoy*, and other like pretended Priviledged Places (ſo far as relates to the obſtructing Preſſing) be abrogated, or at leaſt ſuſpended for this Year.

V. *And whereas Numbers of Mates, Gunners, Carpenters, and able Seamen, ſhroud themſelves from the Preſs, by putting themſelves Apprentice to Maſters of Colliers, and other Ships, contrary to the true Intent of the Act for encreaſing the Number of Seamen.* That the Force of the ſaid Act be alſo ſuſpended for this Year.

VI. *And whereas many luſty Young Sea-faring Men in and about the City of* London, *marrying or pretending to marry Ale-wives, Coffee-Women,* &c. *ſhroud themſelves under the Title of Houſe-keepers:* That no Sea-faring Man, for the future, be protected meerly upon account of his keeping a Publick Houſe: And that ſuch Sea-faring Men, as, to avoid Her Majeſty's Service, get themſelves choſen Conſtables, Head-Boroughs, *&c.* The Lord Mayor, or ſome other of Her Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, upon Information, grant Warrants for Preſſing ſuch Sea-faring Men. Which done, the Pariſh or Ward ſhall proceed to elect other Officers in their room, as in caſe of Death.

VII. That Juſtices of the Peace (when they ſee Cauſe) grant Warrants to Conſtables to break open Locks in the Day-time to come at Seamen, but no Preſs Gang be allowed to enter, except (in Caſes of violent Reſiſtance) they are by the Conſtable called to his Aſſiſtance.

VIII. That the preſent (ſort of) Theft practis'd by Preſs-Gangs, in Preſſing Sea-faring Men, and letting them go again for Money, or other Bribes, be made Felony; And that for the future all Perſons preſt in Her Majeſty's Service, ſhall (if required) be carried with all convenient Speed before One of Her Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace.

IX. That all Juſtices of the Peace and Ward, and Pariſh-Officers, be directed to uſe their utmoſt Efforts for the ſpeedy well-manning her Majeſty's Fleet this Year, under ſuch Penalties as ſhall be thought fit.

X. That no Watermen, except thoſe who wear Her Majeſty's, and his Royal Highneſs's Badges, be protected, but what are under Sixteen, and above Fifty Years old, ſeeing we have ſo many Watermen under and above thoſe Ages, more than what are requiſite for the Service of the Navy-Office, Ordnance, Cuſtom-Houſe, Victualling-Office, and all other Offices in *England*.

XI. *And whereas by Sham or Colourable Bills of Sale of Parts of Ships, wherein Sea-faring Men get themſelves ſtiled Maſters, many Mariners not only become Protected themſelves, but ſhelter others under the Denomination of their Mates and Apprentices:*

That

That a Penalty of . . . be inflicted upon all Perſons ſigning or ſhrouding themſelves under ſuch Bills of Sale, and the Party impriſoned until paid; which if not done in . . . . Days, That ſuch Offender be ſeverely whipp'd at the next Whipping-Poſt.

XII. That all Fiſhermen, Watermen, Bargemen and Lightermen, who being duly ſummon'd do not appear, ſhall be liable to be Disfranchiſed; and all Watermen, Bargemen, Fiſhermen, *&c.* Fiſhing or Working upon the River of *Thames* after they are Disfranchiſed, be not only fined or puniſhed, as thoſe who ſign Sham Bills of Sale, but Serve . . . . Months before the Maſt without Pay. Alſo, that One or more of the Commanders of Her Majeſty's Ships of War be preſent, whenever the Maſters and Wardens meet at their Hall, to Impreſs Men; to ſee they may not ſend Boys and Old Men, and excuſe thoſe fit for Service.

XIII. That each Sea-faring Man, who ſhall not by a certain time to be limited in Her Majeſty's Royal Proclamation, either Enter himſelf on Board ſome of Her Majeſty's Ships of War, or ſhow ſuch Cauſe to the next Juſtice of Peace, as ſhall be by him deem'd Reaſonable, and take a Certificate thereof, (which ſhall be given *Gratis*) be liable to ſerve Six Months before the Maſt, in One of Her Majeſty's Ships of War, and his Pay confiſcated, half to the Informer, and the other half to *Greenwich* Hoſpital.

XIV.

XIV. That all other Fines or Penalties that ſhall become payable by Virtue of this Act, be one Third to the Uſe of the Informer, and Two Thirds to *Greenwich* Hoſpital.

XV. That all Perſons who ſhall (after the ſaid time limited in Her Majeſty's Proclamation as aforeſaid) wittingly Harbour or Conceal any Sea-faring Men, be fined and puniſhed as thoſe who ſign Sham Bills of Sale, to prevent them from being Preſt;

It's hoped, that when Sea-faring Men find how difficult the aforegoing Methods render it for them to eſcape Preſſing, they will make a Virtue of Neceſſity, and come in Voluntarily; which for the Encouragement of their Wives and Children to perſwade them to do.

It's further Propoſed,

I. THat Her Majeſty's Bounty Money be paid as formerly; But that all Seamens Wages be pay'd as followeth, *viz.* All even Pounds in Exchequer Notes upon the Land-Tax, and their Odd Shillings and Pence in ready Money; That ſuch Exchequer Notes carry Intereſt a Farthing a Pound *per* Week, which will make them preferrable to Money, and ſave Sailors Five or Six Shillings in the Pound, they now looſe by the Sale of their Tickets.

II. That now the War is ſo far Diſtant, the Books of Ships that are Abroad be made up every

3 Months, and ſent to the Navy-Board, and that upon Receipt of ſuch Books, each Man's Wife, or Attorney be from time to time paid in Exchequer Notes, as aforeſaid, all that by ſuch Books ſhall then appear Due to them, the Want whereof generally makes their Families come to the Pariſhes; and is the Chief Reaſon why (notwithſtanding Her Majeſty's Proclamations) Juſtices of the Peace, and Pariſh and Ward Officers, connive at Seamens abſconding, and give ſo little Aſſiſtance to Preſs-Gangs.

III. That for the future no Licenſes for keeping Ale-Houſes, or Coffee-Houſes be Granted, but only to the Widows of *Voluntiers*, or to ſuch *Voluntiers* as have been diſabled in Service, or the Wives or Children of thoſe who are actually in Sea-Service; or to ſuch other Perſons as ſhall Pay Forty Shillings *per Annum* to *Greenwich* Hoſpital, towards the Maintenance and Relief of *Voluntiers* Orphans.

IV. That the Widows of all ſuch *Voluntiers* as ſhall be ſlain in Her Majeſty's Sea Service, ſhall be *Free Widows*, and not only Exempted from all Rates, Duties and Taxes, but have Liberty all *England* over, to uſe and Exerciſe any Lawful Trade, Profeſſion or Myſtery, (during their Widowhood) in like manner, as if they had ſerved Seven Years Apprenticeſhip to the ſame; and if they are left with Two or more Children, ſhall not looſe their Freedom (as to their Trade or Profeſſion) altho they Marry again.

V. That

V. That for raiſing a *Stock* to carry on ſuch *Trade* or Profeſſion, every ſuch Widow ſhall have a Priviledge given her *Gratis*; with a Blank for filling up the Name of the Perſon to whom ſhe Sells it; who by Buying thereof, and Regiſtring the ſame at *Greenwich* Hoſpital, ſhall Receive a Certificate of his ſo doing, and thereby be Exempted during his Life from all the ſeveral Offices of Conſtable, Scavenger, Overſeer of the Poor, and all other Pariſh, Leet and Ward-Offices: And likewiſe from ſerving upon any Jury or Inqueſts.

LONDON,
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